

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 4, 2006

EVEN WITH EXTREME HEAT, DC COMES OUT TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2006

Even a severe heat warning could not wilt the city's energy and spirit when it came to National Night Out 2006. With temperatures running at or near 100 degrees, thousands of residents from across DC still came out on Tuesday, August 1, for a host of crime prevention activities, as part of DC's celebration of "America's night out against crime." Hundreds of Northeast DC residents joined Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, US Attorney Kenneth Wainstein and a host of community leaders for the official citywide kickoff of National Night Out at the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center. In addition to food, youth activities, and crime prevention information and displays, the kickoff included the announcement of a new crime prevention campaign in the Ward 5 community. "Light Up the Night" is a grassroots effort to distribute energy-efficient light bulbs to area homeowners, encouraging them to leave their front and rear exterior lights on from dusk until dawn every night of the year. The Mayor and the Chief walked with "Light Up the Night" Coalition members in handing out light bulbs and information to residents of Perry Place, NE. Following the kickoff, the city's leaders visited a number of National Night Out events in all parts of the city. All told, DC held more than 50 National Night Out events — from cookouts, ice cream socials and block parties, to candlelight vigils and neighborhood walks. This was the 23rd annual celebration of National Night Out.

① Noting that this year's National Night Out celebration came during the city's crime emergency, Chief Ramsey thanked all of the police officers, other city employees, community leaders and residents who made this year's National Night Out such a success.

① To make its post-event report and awards application as comprehensive as possible, the MPDC would appreciate photographs, flyers or other documentation from neighborhood NNO events in DC. Send your materials to Kevin Palmer, MPDC, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, WDC 20001, or email him at: kevin.palmer@dc.gov

CRIME LEVELS MOSTLY UNCHANGED DURING JULY; CRIME DOWN SLIGHTLY SINCE CRIME EMERGENCY

Reported crime in DC during July was essentially unchanged from July 2005 levels, according to preliminary statistics from by the MPDC. However, the data also show that during the latter part of the month, following Chief Ramsey's declaration of the citywide crime emergency, crime levels did decline slightly. During July 2006, there were 3,042 serious crimes reported in the District, compared to 3,034 crimes reported in July 2005. Reports of every violent crime type were almost identical between the months: there was one more homicide and three more assaults with a deadly weapon, but one fewer sexual assault and one fewer robbery reported. Among property crimes, burglary (+4%) and theft (+6%) increased, while theft from vehicle (-3%) and stolen autos (-5%) declined. Crime fell last month in four police districts and increased in the other three. Through the first seven months of 2006, reported crime in DC is up by about 3.7 percent citywide, when compared to the same period of 2005, preliminary data show. Year to date, violent crime is up by about 7 percent and property crime has increased by 3 percent. So far this year, reported crime is down in four police districts and is up in the other three.

① View preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole by going to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwpl/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① The latest statistics on the crime emergency show overall crime declined by about 2.5 percent since the implementation of the initiative on July 12, through July 30. During that same time, arrests (+21%), firearm recoveries (+46%) and curfew violations (+177%) were all up sharply.

DC OBSERVES NATIONAL STOP ON RED WEEK

Every year, the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running sets aside one week to try to raise public awareness of both the serious dangers of running red lights and the steps that law enforcement and the community are taking to combat the problem. This year's observance takes place on August 6-12, and the MPDC and District government will be supporting National Stop on Red Week. In addition to hosting a news conference and conducting other community outreach, the MPDC and the Campaign will distribute safety posters of Washington Nationals star Ryan Zimmerman before the game on August 9. The message on the poster: "Get Home Safe: Be aggressive at the plate, but not behind the wheel." The District Department of Transportation will be displaying "Stop on Red" safety messages on variable message boards around the city, and the Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications will be running information on city cable 16. The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running is dedicated to reducing the incidence of red light running in the US and the fatalities and injuries it causes. The Campaign has assembled a team of leaders from the fields of law enforcement, transportation engineering, health care and emergency medicine, and traffic safety, to tackle this crucial safety issue.

OMNIBUS PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY AMENDMENT ACT CREATES NEW OFFENSES, ENHANCES PENALTIES

While much attention has been paid recently to the emergency legislation affecting curfews, Closed Circuit Television and juvenile records, another new law has taken effect in DC that creates new criminal offenses, enhances penalties for others and gives the MPDC new tools to combat crime. The Omnibus Public Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2006 was signed recently by Mayor Williams and went into effect in late July. For example, the law establishes the crime of contributing to the delinquency of a minor — regardless of whether the minor commits a delinquent act — for adults at least four years older than the minor. It also establishes the crimes of gang recruitment, participation in a gang-related crime, and retaliation for refusing to join or seeking to leave a gang. The law defines a gang as an association or group of six or more persons that has as one of its purposes or frequent activities the violation of criminal laws. In the area of firearms, the new law prohibits convicted felons from possessing any firearm (previously, the prohibition applied just to pistols), and it imposes a one-year mandatory minimum sentence for a felon in possession of a firearm, and changes the maximum penalty for a first offense from 180 days to 10 years. The law further imposes a one-year mandatory minimum sentence and a 10-year maximum for knowing possession of armor-piercing ammunition — so called "cop-killer" bullets. Among other things, the law also authorizes the creation of "prostitution free zones" — similar to the drug free zones already in effect — and extends to 10 days the maximum time period for any one zone.

NEWS & NOTES

Earlier, 10 pm Curfew in Effect. Young people age 16 and younger, and their parents, are reminded that the curfew in DC now begins at 10 pm and ends at 6 am, seven days a week. The earlier curfew start remains in effect through at least August 30. The alternative curfew hours were set by Mayor Williams, following the passage of emergency legislation that gives the Mayor the authority to revise curfew hours during a crime emergency. For details, go to <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9155>.

Sign Up for News Release Updates. Want to keep up with the latest news from the MPDC? You can sign up to receive email alerts on news releases posted to the MPDC News Room. To register for the MPDC (or other DC government agencies), go to <http://www.dc.gov/registration/register.asp>.

① For more information about the Campaign and its programs, go to: <http://www.stoppedlightrunning.com/>

① National Stop on RedWeek is also an opportunity to highlight the District's automated red-light intersection safety program. The cameras have led to a 66 percent reduction in the incidence of red-light running at the 49 intersections equipped with the technology. Details at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

① The penalty for running a red light in DC is \$75, plus two points on the driver's license. Photo-enforced tickets do not carry any points

① Read the legislation online at: <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/lims/getlegl.asp?legno=B16-0864>

① Because it was passed as "emergency" legislation, the new law remains in effect for only 90 days. The DC Council is expected to consider permanent legislation later this year.

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 8/4/06

- ◆ 2006: 106
- ◆ 2005: 111
- ◆ % Change: -4.5%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 48.1% (51 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 7/29/06

- ◆ Total: 1,168
- ◆ Weapons: 39
- ◆ Robbery: 19
- ◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 18
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 65
- ◆ Narcotics: 198

Juvenile Activity week end. 7/29/06

- ◆ Total Arrests: 71
- ◆ Robbery: 3
- ◆ Weapons: 4
- ◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 8
- ◆ Curfew Violators: 293

Firearm Recoveries as of 8/2/06

- ◆ August: 17
- ◆ July: 206
- ◆ 2006 Total: 1,403

Traffic Fatalities as of 8/4/06

- ◆ 2006: 26
- ◆ 2005: 25
- ◆ % Change: +4.0%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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